

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 CARACA 08735 142329Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 CCO-00 /026 W
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Z O 142240Z SEP 78
FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC FLASH 3855
INFO AMEMBASSY MANAGUA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T CARACAS 8735

EXDIS

DEPARTMENT PLEASE PASS DIA AND NSC

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT OAS NU VE
SUBJECT: NICARAGUA MFM

REF: STATE 231820

SUMMARY. CHARGE WAS SUMMONED TO PRESIDENT PEREZ' OFFICE AT 15:30 SEPTEMBER 14. PRESIDENT TOLD CHARGE THAT AT THE REQUEST OF COSTA RICAN PRESIDENT CARAZO, HE HAD, ON SEPT. 14 SENT TWO VAF CANBERRAS, TWO OV-10'S, AND ONE C-123 LOADED WITH BOMBS AND OTHER SUPPORT EQUIPMENT TO COSTA RICA. HE SAID THAT PANAMA HAD CONTRIBUTED SOME HELICOPTERS WHICH WILL CARRY COSTA RICAN MACHINE GUNNERS. VENEZUELAN AIRCRAFT ARE UNDER PRESIDENT CARACO'S ORDER TO PREVENT AN INVASION OF COSTA RICA. PEREZ ADDED HIS FOREIGN MINISTER ALSO WENT TO COSTA RICA AFTERNOON SEPT 14. PEREZ SAID THAT GOV BELIEVES OAS SPECIAL MEETING TO BE HELD SEPTEMBER 15 ON NICARAGUA SHOULD IMMEDIATELY CONSTITUTE ITSELF INTO A SPECIAL ORGAN OF CONSULTATION TO DEAL, IF POSSIBLE, THAT SAME DAY WITH NICARAGUAN SITUATION. PRESIDENT PEREZ FAVORS IMMEDIATE DISPATCH IF OAS FACTFINDING GROUP AS WELL AS IMMEDIATE VISIT TO COSTA RICA OF IAHR

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END SUMMARY.

1. PRESIDENT PEREZ BEGAN HIS CONVERSATION WITH CHARGE BY SAYING HE HAD VERY BAD NEWS. ALL OF HIS PREDICTIONS TO PRESIDENT CARTER ABOUT NICARAGUA HAD COME TRUE, SAID PEREZ, AND THE SITUATION THERE HAD DETERIORATED TO THE POINT OF NO RETURN. HE SAID THAT PRESIDENT CARAZO CALLED HIM THE

EVENING OF SEPTEMBER 13 AND ASKED VENEZUELA TO LEND COSTA RICA SOME AIRCRAFT TO PROTECT LATTER COUNTRY FROM NICARAGUAN INVASION. PEREZ REPORTEDLY REPLIED THAT VENEZUELAN AIR FORCE COULD NOT BE LOANED, BUT THAT HE WAS PREPARED TO SEND SOME AIRCRAFT IN SOLIDARITY. PEREZ SAID HE HAS DISPATCHED TWO OV-10'S, TWO CANBERRA BOMBERS AND ONE C-123 WITH BOMBS AND OTHER CANBERRA SUPPORT EQUIPMENT TO CASTA RICA. HE SAID CANBERRAS HAD ALREADY ARRIVED, BUT THAT OV-01'S HAD TO REFUEL IN PANAMA. OSTENSIBLY, HE SAID, THE AIRPLANES WERE ON A "GOODWILL VISIT" TO COSTA RICAS, BUT IN FACT, HE HAD ORDERED THE AIRCRAFT COMMANDERS TO TBHEY PRESIDENT CARAZO'S ORDERS. HE SAID HE HAD AUTHORIZED AIRCRAFT TO UNDERTAKE BOMBING MISSION IN COSTA RICA, IF CARAZO SO ORDERED AND EVEN TO BOMB NICARAGUAN INSTALLATIONS IF CARAZO DEEMED IT NECESSARY. HE SAID THAT PRESIDENT TORRIJOS HAD SENT SOME HELICOPTERS TO COSTA RICA WITH THE SAME MISSION. THESE HELCIOPTERS WOULD BE USED TO TRANSPORT COSTA RICAN MACHINE GUNNERS. PRESIDENT PEREZ SAID THE SITUATION IN NICARAGUA HAD REACHED THE POINT OF NO RETURN AND SINCE VENEZUELA HAD A MUTUAL DEFENSE AGREEMENT WITH OCSTA RICA, HE HAD TAKEN THIS STEP FULLY COGNIZANT OF THE EANGER THAT THIS REPRESENTED. HE HAD NO WISH TO REPLACE THE US, HE SAID, BUT URGENT ACTION WAS NECESSARY. ALTHOUGH PEREZ DID NOT ACTUALLY ARTICULATE THE IDEA AS HE SPOKE, HE SEEMED TO BE GROPING TOWARD THE IDEA OF SOME FORM OF OAS COVER FOR THE VENEZUELAN AIRCRAFT IN COSTA RICA. PEREZ ADDED HIS FOREIGN MINISTER ALSO WENT TO SECRET

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COSTA RICA AFTERNOON SEPT. 14.

2. PEREZ SAID THE SITUATION IN NCARAGUA IS ABSOLUTELY UNCONSCIONABLE AND HAS TO BE STOPPED. HE SAID HE HAD SPOKEN TO THE WIDOW OF JOAQUIN CHAMARRO WHO SAID THAT GENOCIDE WAS BEING COMMITTED IN NACARAGUA. FOR THIS REASON, SAID PRESIDENT PEREZ, HE FULLY AGREED WITH THE US REQUEST FOR SPECIAL OAS MEETING TO CONVOKE A MFM. IN VENEZUELA'S CONCEPTION, HOWEVER, HE SAID, THAT SPECIAL MEETING SHOULD BE HELD ON SEPTEMBER 15 AND IMMEDIATELY CONSTITUTE ITSELF INTO A SPECIAL ORGAN OF CONSULTATION WHICH WOULD (A) DISPATCH IMMEDIATELY A FACTFINDING OR SOME OTHER KIND ("LO QUE SEA") OF MISSION WHICH WOULD PUT AN IMMEDIAT HALT TO THE CARNAGE, AND (B) IMMEDIATELY DISPATCH THE IAHRC TO COSTA RICA. HE SAID IT IS ABSURD TO WAIT UNTIL SOMOZA'S DEADLINE OF OCTOBER 5, WHEN HUMAN RIGHTS ARE BEING VIOLATED AT THIS MOMENT. HE URGED CHARGE TO MAKE HIS VIEWS KNOWN TO USG AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

3. PEREZ SAID THERE HAD BEEN SOME MISUNDERSTANDING ABOUT TORRIJOS ABSTAINING ON THE CONVOKING OF THE MFM. HE SAID THAT THIS HAD BEEN RESOLVED AND THAT TORRIJOS HAD ASSURED

HIM PANAMA WOULD SUPPORT THE CONVOCATION. HE SAID ALSO THAT HE HAD HEARD

THAT BOLIVIA WAS GOING TO ABSTAIN AND THAT HE WAS SENDING A TELEGRAM TO GENERAL PEREDA URGING THAT BOLIVIA SUPPORT THE CONVOCATION OF THE MFM "BECAUSE WITH CHILEAN-PERUVIAN TENSION THE SAME THING COULD HAPPEN TO BOLIVIA."

4. PEREZ SAID PALLASI DEBAYLE HAD VISITED HIM ON SEPTEMBER 9 AND THAT HE HAD TOLD PALLAIS THAT IT WAS ESSENTIAL THAT SOMOZA STEP DOWN AS SOON AS POSSIBLE AND THAT THE 1981 TIMETABLE WAS COMPLETELY OUT OF THE QUESTION. SOMOZA WILL BE GONE BY THEN, HE SAID, AND IF WE DON'T TAKE SOME STEPS IMMEDIATELY TO REPLACE HIM, THE SANDINISTAS
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WILL GAIN CONTROL OF THAT COUNTRY.

5. ALTHOUGH PRESIDENT SEEMED FULL OF ENERGY AND IN GOOD SPIRITS, HE PAINTED A GLOOMY OUTLOOK FOR PEACE IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE WORLD. HE SAID THAT CHILE AND ARGENTINA WERE VIRTUALLY PREARPING FOR WAR OVER THEIR BORDER PROBLEM AND THAT ECUADRO WOULD SURELY SIDE WITH CHILE IN ORDER TO PROVOKE SOME SORT OF ARGENTINE-PERUVIAN COOPERATION THAT WOULD ALLOW ECUADOR TO MAKE SOME MOVE TO RECLAIM ITS LOST TERRITORY. PEREZ SAID THE GIB LOSER IN ALL OF THIS WOULD SURELY BE BOLIVIA. HE SAID ALSO THAT IT WAS IMPERATIVE THAT SOME SOLUTION BE REACHED QUICKLY IN THE MIDDLE EAST AND THAT THE SHAH RESOLVE HIS PROBLEMS. OTHERWISE, IRAN MIGHT BECOME ITSELF A FOCUS OF INSTABILITY PUTTING IN DANGER THE STABILITY OF THE ENTIRE MIDDLE EAST AND THE US POSITION IN THAT PART OF THE WORLD.

6. AS THIS MSG WAS BEING TYPED PRESIDENTIAL PALACE RELEASED FOLLOWING MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT PEREZ TO PRESIDENT CARAZO

BEGIN QUOTE

FLOTILLA DE LA FUERZA AEREA VENEZOLANA EN VUELO DE ENTRENAMIENTO DESEA HACER VISITA DE CORTESIA ESA CAPITAL PARA LO CUAL ME PERMITO SOLICITAR SU AQUEIESENCIA. ESTA CONSTITUIDA POR DOS AVIONES DE BOMBARDEO TIPO CANBERRA, DOS AVIONES OV-10 CAZA BOMBARDEROS Y UN AVION DE TRANSPORTE C-123. OFICIALES DE LA FUERZA AEREA VENEZOLANA DESEAN EXPRESAR QUE ESTA VISITA ES DE BUENA VOLUNTAD Y DE LA FRATENAL AMISTAD VENEZOLANA Y DE SUS FUERZAS ARMADAS CON EL PUELBO Y EL GOBIERNO DE COSTA RICA.

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END QUOTE

ACCORDING PRESIDENTIAL PALACE; PRESIDENT PEREZ DISCUSSED
THIS MOVE WITH VENEZUELAN OPPOSITION POLITICAL PARTIES.
CROWLEY

NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASS TO DIA,NSC.

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NNN

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